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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Norio SUGAWARA et al.
International Application No.: PCT/JP04/009456
International Filing Date: June 28, 2004
For: EXTERNAL STORAGE APPARATUS

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Sir:

Enclosed are copies of prior art references and publications, which were cited in the International Search Report of International Application No. PCT/JP04/009456, as well as copies of references, which might be deemed relevant to this application. Also enclosed is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and the International Search Report.

In the event the above-identified patent application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is an international application that entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. 371 after June

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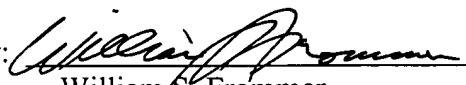
REMARKS

Entry of this Information Disclosure Statement and an early examination on the merits are respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

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Enclosures

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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | AA | 6, 592, 031 | 07/15/03 | Klatt | | | |
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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO |
| | AH | JP 2000-215296 | 08/04/00 | Japan | | | |
| | AI | EP 1 006 479 | 06/07/00 | Europe | | | |
| | AJ | JP 3060424 | 06/16/99 | Japan | | | |
| | AK | JP 11-312225 | 11/09/99 | Japan | | | |
| | AL | JP 06-312593 | 11/08/94 | Japan | | | |
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